

# REPORTERS COMMITTEE

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February 2, 2021

The Honorable Katherine Polk Failla  
United States District Judge  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York  
40 Foley Square  
New York, NY 10007

**VIA ECF**

Re: *In re Application of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press to Unseal Certain Search Warrant Applications and Related Judicial Documents*, 18-MC-320 (KPF)

Dear Judge Failla,

Petitioner Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (“Reporters Committee”) and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York (“USAO”) write in response to the Court’s orders dated January 10, 2019, June 18, 2019, August 6, 2019, January 30, 2020, April 1, 2020, May 29, 2020, August 3, 2020, and November 2, 2020 (Docket Nos. 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33), directing the submission of a joint status letter regarding the above-captioned case.

In the last status update to the presiding judge, the Reporters Committee and the USAO informed Judge Failla that the Clerk’s Office and the USAO had initiated training and testing of a procedure for ECF filing of sealed materials, consistent with the proposal previously discussed in updates to the Court.

Following an unauthorized breach of the ECF filing system, the SDNY Court, in consultation with the Clerk’s Office, determined that the previously-planned procedure for the ECF filing of sealed applications is no longer an option for securely storing this data. The Clerk’s Office and USAO are considering alternatives to permit the secure electronic filing of this information and will continue to confer with the Reporters Committee.

Accordingly, the Reporters Committee respectfully requests that the stay in this case be extended to and including May 2, 2021. The Reporters Committee and the USAO will provide a further status update to the Court no later than May 2, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Katie Townsend

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*Counsel for the Reporters Committee*

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